

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed July 13, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

In July 13, 2004 Office Action, Claims 1-13, 14-26, 27-39, and 40-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,236,971 ("Stefik") in light of United States Patent Publication No. 2002/0078377 ("Chang").

The independent claims have been amended to recite that "the reference to the object contains information necessary to locate and invoke the object." Based on the reference to an object, a programmatic user associated with a site can find and invoke the object. The reference to an object can be duplicated in a second repository so that programmatic users associated with a second site can invoke the object. The ability to duplicate the reference to the object to provide the information necessary to invoke the object by other sites is controlled based on permissions.

The digital ticket of Stefik is a digital certificate such that possession of the ticket allows a user to perform transactions with a digital. In other words, possession of a digital ticket gives the holder of the digital ticket the right to perform some action with a digital work. It is not inherent or implicit, however, that the digital ticket references a particular work. Stefik explicitly teaches that the usage rights for a work reference the digital ticket(s) needed to interact with a work, not that the digital ticket(s) reference the digital work. In the system of Stefik, a "usage rights language" is used to define rights associated with a digital work. See Stefik, Col. 17, ll. 52-57. The usage rights language can specify various things that are needed to interact with a digital work including a bank account, a digital ticket etc. See Stefik, Col. 17, ll. 60-64. The usage rights can specify, for example, a ticket ID needed to perform an operation as part of the Security Class Authorization Specification. See Stefik Col. 22, ll. 17-25. The ticket ID in the Access Specification specifies the identity of a ticket required for a transaction. See Stefik Col. 22, ll. 34-39. Because the usage rights attached to a digital work list the ticket ID for the ticket needed to perform a transaction, there is no need for the digital ticket to reference the digital work.

Figure 18 describes common opening and closing steps of Stefik when a user wants to perform a transaction with a digital work (e.g., such as copying the digital work). As one part of determining whether a transaction can take place, the system of Stefik can determine if the

user has presented the correct digital ticket as specified in the usage rights for the digital work. See Stefik, Col. 30, l. 64-col. 31, l. 1. Thus, for example, the usage rights to copy a work Y may require digital ticket X. When the user requests to copy work Y, the system of Stefik will confirm that the user has digital ticket X before allowing the copying. The system of Stefik will punch the digital ticket X if present and allow the transaction to take place. If the digital ticket is not present, the transaction will be terminated. See Stefik Col. 31, ll. 16-24. Because the usage rights specify what digital ticket is needed to perform an operation on Y, there is no need for the digital ticket X to reference work Y.

Thus, there is no need for the digital tickets of Stefik to reference the digital works and there is certainly no teaching that the digital tickets provide the information necessary for a program to locate and use a software object. Applicant therefore submits that Stefik does not teach duplicating the claimed reference to an invokable software object that "contains information necessary to locate and invoke the object". Applicant further submits the office action does not demonstrate how the cited portions of Chang make up for the deficiencies of Stefik. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

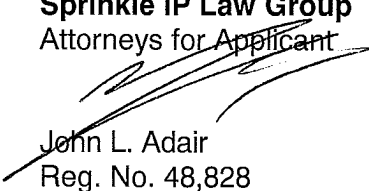
Conclusion

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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